

Friday, October 23, 2009

To: Harlan Lyso- Superintendent
David Leung - CFO/CBO
Orion Weber- IT Manager

From: Andrew Torris

Re: Computer Budget Requests for 2010-11

Grade 6 Laptops

As you all are aware, grade 6 is part of the 1:1 laptop program as described and defined in the SAS Technology Plan: The Future of Learning at SAS. This rollout was slated to begin in the fall of 2010. I would like us to consider the following approach to this rollout.

Laptops for Grade 6 Students- A transitional approach to student and family ownership

In surveying the schools around the world who have transitioned young middle school students and older elementary students into laptop ownership, many have noted that an “educational year” of 1:1 laptop use is appropriate and recommended. As we are experiencing this year with our 7th grade students, we know that when younger children are handed a computer an extreme amount of experimentation and game playing is normal and the supervision requirements for these laptops escalates. Thus I am recommending that we make grade 6 at SAS a transitional year for 1:1 laptop use.

This approach would look like this:

- All Grade 6 classrooms would be fully 1:1
- All computers would be school owned, and no tech fee would be required from the parents and children.
- This would require the school to purchase over 270 laptops at a cost of approximately \$270,000.00
- Additional laptop locks and storage facility would need to be installed in all classrooms or schools at a cost of approximately \$15000.00
- There are no additional costs for the installation of these machines and will be able to be serviced and maintained by the onsite apple service centers.
- These machines would then remain in the ownership of SAS and be checked out to individual students for use at school for the first few months of the school year and then to be taken to and from school and home after a transitional period mutually agreed upon by the middle school leadership.
- Machines currently in the middle school would be shifted to the high school for one year to help mitigate the issues of having 12th grade (seniors) not having access to their own computer in the same classrooms with 11th grade (juniors) who do. This sort of issue will make the use of technology difficult for the High School teachers who have both levels in one classroom.
- This would make laptop ownership only in grade 7-12 after full implementation of the 1:1 program in 2012.

Shifting Costs:

SAS faces a significant rollover of technology equipment this academic year with many machines at the 4 or 5 year old age level. I would recommend that the computers in the media centers, in learning centers around the middle schools not be replaced, and that these costs be shifted to this 1:1 effort. Additionally, laptops currently in the grade 6 classrooms would be moved to the high school for use by the senior class for one year.

Elementary Schools - Continuing the move to the adopted educational computing platform

In the fall of 2008, SAS administration formally adopted the Macintosh as the educational computing platform for our classrooms, administration and counselors. The elementary computers are in need of updating to this environment. It is my recommendation that SAS continue on this progression to the new educational computing platform by completing this change in all classrooms. This migration will entail:

- All Dell laptops in grade 5 be replaced with Macbooks on both campuses at a student to computer ratio of 2:1. This cost would be approximately \$150,000.00 with no additional need for carts or infrastructure.
- All desktop Dells be replaced with Mac-mini computers, and the keyboard, mice and monitors be used for interface and displays. Pudong elementary library has been using this type of interface and display for the past year with tremendous success.
- Teachers in all classrooms and divisions have Macbooks already. This will allow all classroom, student computers and teacher computers to match and be aligned for use.
- The mac mini cost is approximately 600 dollars. There are no additional costs for the installation of these machines and will be able to be serviced and maintained by the onsite apple service centers. The cost of this implementation will be approximately \$200,000.00.

High Schools

Only a few high school classrooms will need to continue to the "one off" dell desktop. Currently there are a few programs that only run on the PC environment. These include some IB test bank software, some stats software and the AP Chinese exam.

I would like the HS administration to consider whether it is feasible to continue the use of a single PC lab of 10-15 computers in a space that could have multiple uses to accommodate these issues.

Administration - Central Office, Support Services and Divisional Administration

It has been mentioned to me on several occasions that many of the secretaries in the offices would like to use Macs. If this is true then it should be requested and budgeted. If the budget request is granted then professional development planning needs to be put in place for this transition as well.